176. Some suggestions for rural reconstruction.

MR. KOSHY PALAKUNNATHU (*Nominated*) said that it should be the aim of statesmanship to bring about better conditions for the inhabitants of villages and for the boys and young men in schools and colleges who were waiting to take their part in life and to remove the evils of unemployment among the educated people, of homelessness among the depressed classes, of agricultural depression in the country side and the over-crowded poverty of the towns.

The prosperity of the country depended on the well-being of the villagers, who numbered more than 80 per cent. of the entire population. Due to the improvement of civic amenities, the villages were being gradually denuded of their population. That tendency should be checked by rendering village life more endurable and pleasant. In the prevention and control of diseases in rural areas, something was being done, thanks to the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation. But a good deal of work remained undone. Government should pay greater attention to the question of health in rural areas and bring skilled assistance within the reach of every inhabitant of the villages. They should more liberally finance the scheme of public health formulated by Dr. Jacocks.

The Road Board, which was intended to benefit the inhabitants of villages, stood in need of reform in certain directions. The Village Panchayat Regulation should be immediately brought into force. Separate budgets should be prepared for the work of rural reconstruction.

The public did not co-operate with the Sanitary Department in the work of improving and maintaining public health. Hygiene and public health questions should be taught in schools. The medical examination of school children should be insisted on. Though there was already an arrangement for the medical examination of pupils, the health of the children in private schools was generally uncared for. It should be made a rule that every school and college should be visited from time to time by medical men to be specially appointed for the purpose. Due to the poverty of parents, a large number of school children starved during the middle of the day. Quite naturally, those children paid the cost in diminished health. Some arrangement should be made for the children being provided with mid-day meals.

Specialisation in medicine and surgery was so far advanced that no member of the medical profession in Europe could treat more than a limited number of diseases. Specialists should be appointed in the Trivandrum General Hospital for the treatment of different kinds of ailments. Specialists in venereal diseases, and in the diseases of the ear, throat and nose were absolutely necessary. A dentist should also be appointed in the General Hospital.

The course of study in hygiene, consisting of the following books, prescribed by the Board of Education in England should be adopted in the schools of the State :—

(i) Regulations for the training of teachers—Hygiene syllabus.

(ii) Hygiene of the food and drink—a syllabus of lessons for use in schools and notes for the assistance of teachers.

(iii) The teaching of infant care and management to school girls.

(iv) Social hygiene.

Mouth hygiene should be taught in all schools.

Cramming was the essence of the existing educational system. The system failed to quicken the intelligence of pupils. The 'Project Method' of education, widely prevalent in the Punjab and in Upper India, should be adopted in the State. Children should be taught to observe and learn things for themselves. Teachers should watch them carefully in order to discover any special gifts they might have. When it was found what tastes and interests were most pronounced, the whole educational lives of the children should be dedicated to the development of those particular powers. A closer co-ordination of general with vocational education, a rich variety of technical schools and the means of diverting boys at definite stages from thoughts of Government service into other equally honourable careers were extremely necessary. All pupils of a school in a particular locality should have some training in a vocation that would suit that locality. A committee should be formed to help in the task of developing a co-ordinated policy of education.

Cheapness in the cost of transport accelerated trade and industry. The cost of transporting commodities from Alleppey to Mundakayam was rather high as the road connecting the two places was unnecessarily long. The existing Alleppey-Mundakayam road passed through Ambalapuzha, Haripad, Mavelikara and Kumili and was 90 miles long. The distance could be reduced to 55 miles by the opening of a more direct route through Ambalapuzha, Takazhi, Edatua, Tiruvalla, Kumbanad, Ranni, Manimala, Erumeli and Perur *todu*.

It was gratifying to note that the question of water communications was also included in the purview of the Road Boards. The Boards should take up the proposal to open the *Kuttapuzha todu* and the *Poovattur todu* in accordance with the suggestions of Mr. John Kuriyan. Those works would mitigate the evil of floods during the rainy season and make it possible for agriculturists to cultivate an extent of 2,800 acres of wet lands.

There were several ryots' roads in the Vennikulam P. W. D. Section of the Tiruvalla taluk, *i. e.* the M. A. road, Kumbanad-Ranni road, Palakattil-Maramon-Arattupuzha road, Kuriannur-Maramon road and Edakad market road. In G. O. R. O. C. No. 613/22/P. W., dated the 21st January 1924, Government laid down certain conditions in regard to the upkeep of ryots' roads. The Dewan, however, mentioned in the Legislative Council and in the Assembly that the aforesaid ryots' roads would be exempted from the operation of the G. O. Accordingly, the roads should be taken over for departmental maintenance. Better attention should be paid to the ryots' roads which were taken over before the above G. O. was issued. The limits of such roads should be speedily demarcated.

The scope and work of the department of Co-operative Soc should be extended by encouraging and guiding the organisatio collecting and distributing agencies. The growing complaint t the rich and influential persons were alone benefited by Co-operativ Societies should be enquired into.

The member then presented a copy of the resolutions regarding rural reconstruction passed at a meeting of the Central Travancore *Sree Vardhini Sangham.*

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Koshy Palakunnathu, your suggestions for inducing people to keep to the villages and not to rush to towns are very valuable and will be carefully noted by Government. Some of those suggestions have already been under the consideration of the Government; and the Director of Public Instruction has been trying to put some of them into practice. Your suggestion, for instance, that all the pupils of a school in a particular locality should have some training in a vocation that will suit that particular locality is one that the Director of Public Instruction has under consideration.

There are other suggestions of yours which are also valuable; and all th I can say at this juncture is that those points will receive due conside on.

Your uest for a long road connecting Alleppey and Mundakayam is one that requires careful investigation and nothing can be said about it without investigation as to its feasibility, its usefulness and its cost. I shall refer that suggestion to the Chief Engineer for report.

MEMBER: ആര മൈൽ മാത്രമെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളൂ. ബാക്കിയുള്ള വയെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെയുള്ള റോഡുകളാണ്.

DEWAN: Your suggestions, for improving water communications noted and for adopting the recommendations of Mr. John read at previous

177. Further concessions to Pulayas in regard to education or and entertainment in public service. e

MR. AYYAN KALI (*Nominated*) thanked Government for h allowed fee concessions to Pulaya and Paraya pupils. Those ls cessions, however, were not in themselves sufficient to help th ls pressed classes to attain progress in education. The chief reason fo backwardness of those people in the matter of education was pov Unlike the pupils of the well-to-do communities, the Paraya Pulaya pupils had no meal during the middle of the day. As well-fed and healthy children could do well in the examinations, prayer often made by Pulayas for their children in schools being vided with mid-day meal should be heard. Every Hindu Pulaya should be allotted one chackram and one cash per day for the purp

Government issued orders some time back that young men of depressed classes who had studied up to class VII in vernac schools should be entertained in the lower ranks of the Judicial D ment. That order remained a dead letter. Stringent inst not should be issued for the order being enforced as far as possible. be